

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting  
September 28, 2004

6:30 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 28, 2004, in the Gallery, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Sheila S. Noll, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Walter C. Zaremba and Kenneth L. Bowman were absent.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

JOINT MEETING WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF YORK COUNTY

Industrial Development Authority Members Present: R. Anderson Moberg, Chairman; H. J. Coxton, Vice Chairman; Bradley Berrane; and Alex Llorente.

After having dinner, Chairman Shepperd thanked the members of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for their volunteerism and the work they do for the County. He stated they are very dedicated to the economic well being of the County, and the Board of Supervisors does not express its sincere appreciation often enough. He spoke of the IDA's involvement with the revitalization of Route 17 and the Yorktown Waterfront. Mr. Shepperd then indicated he had no specific agenda for this evening's meeting, but it was an opportunity for the Board and IDA members to express any concerns or thoughts they might have.

Mr. Burgett stated the IDA has done an excellent job of focusing on new business and expanding the County's economic base. He indicated he has always strived to see the County meet a goal of 50 percent of its income coming from the business sector, and he asked the IDA members to make it their goal also within the next three years.

Mrs. Noll also expressed her appreciation to the IDA members. She stated she felt Mr. Burgett's goal was admirable and attainable, but she is not interested in just any type of businesses being brought into the County. Mrs. Noll indicated the Yorktown Riverwalk will be a true drawing card for the County, and the Route 17 project is receiving a lot of enthusiasm from property owners along the corridor. She stated she did not think the County needed any Butler buildings, but does need development with good quality design. Mrs. Noll noted that the County also needs to do what it can to help present businesses to expand and improve, and she indicated the new York County Chamber of Commerce has a website listing all the County's businesses.

Mr. Moberg stated the County is very fortunate to have Jim Noel as its Director of Economic Development, and the members of the IDA are very impressed with his dedication. He also mentioned the addition of Melissa Dickens to the Economic Development staff, stating the office and the IDA has a good diversity in expertise. He noted that Junior Coxton has done a great job with the Route 17 project. Mr. Moberg stated the IDA does its best to implement the Board's wishes, and it is very interested in nurturing current businesses and being selective about new ones.

Mr. Burgett asked what the IDA thinks about an overlay district for Route 17.

Mr. Noel indicated that at the IDA's last meeting it adopted an overlay district that will be coming to the Board soon. He stated there are actually two different overlay districts, one that will accomplish a better design and look for Route 17 and another one that allows for the redevelopment of structures on smaller lots.

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Mr. Coxton stated the IDA works hard for the Board of Supervisors, and the Board has supported the IDA by allowing the citizens to participate in County government. In its discussions about the overlay district, he noted one of the discussion points concerned the repair of some of the older buildings. He stated some areas need to be torn down with new development taking its place.

Chairman Shepperd stated he felt the new Chamber of Commerce is providing a sense of pride among the businesses of York County. With the Route 17 project, there is a pride in its involvement and commitment in the community. He stated that people are now believing that what they are doing can make a difference.

Mr. Bowman arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Bowman also addressed involvement by the citizens, stating it is good for government. He stated the citizens have the ideas and the momentum it takes to get things moving.

Mrs. Noll asked what will be accomplished on Route 17 in the next year.

Mr. Coxton indicated there will be plantings in front of the yards, and some fencing will go up. Some of the old buildings will be torn down.

Mr. Noel spoke of the support of the IDA, stating it was like having seven more staff members. He then spoke of the different expertise each of them brings to the County and how much enthusiasm they have for what they are doing. He stated that Melissa Dickens has quickly become a valuable part of the staff, and he spoke of the training she will be undergoing in order to become a Certified Business Retention Specialist. Mr. Noel expressed his appreciation for the Board's support.

Mr. Burgett asked the IDA members if they had attended any of the Comprehensive Plan meetings. He stated the economic development section of the plan needs to be examined and updated, and he asked for the IDA's assistance and input into the update. He also noted the overlay district needs to be included in the Comprehensive Plan update.

Mrs. Noll spoke of the importance of the IDA members attending at least one of the Comprehensive Plan meetings and filling out the questionnaire being provided at the meetings.

Mr. Coxton noted he talks with people all the time, and most citizens are very satisfied with the Board of Supervisors and County government.

Mr. McReynolds stated that as he talks to his counterparts in other localities around the state, he finds that York County is more the exception than the rule for its relationship between the IDA, the Board of Supervisors, and the staff. He stated the enthusiasm and cooperation in working together is something not found in many other localities.

Chairman Shepperd then mentioned that there is a move to merge the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development with the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, and it looks like it will happen now that Hampton has voted for the merger. He stated the Board and IDA need to be aware of this move because the County will be participating. He indicated he thinks the Board might want to consider quickly coming on board in support of the merger because there is an advantage in getting behind Newport News in terms of getting their help with one of the County's priorities.

Discussion followed on the proposed merger and the benefits for York County and the Peninsula.

Meeting Adjourned. At 8:05 p.m. Chairman Shepperd declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

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James O. McReynolds, Clerk  
York County Board of Supervisors

Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors